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**“Prepare Him Room:  
Preparing for Peace”**

By  
Tracy Wells

**What** In this Advent monologue, Alex packs for a road trip to Grandma’s house for Christmas and reflects on the trip taken by Mary and Joseph on their way to Bethlehem, and the peace they brought to the world through their unborn child. This is the second monologue in the Advent series, Prepare Him Room, which reminds us that as we engage in holiday traditions in preparation for Christmas Day, we are also preparing room in our hearts for Jesus.

Themes: Christmas, Advent, Peace, Reader’s Theater, Gospel, Monologue

**Who** Alex; any gender adult

**When** Present

**Costumes** Modern Day attire.

**Props** Suitcase with optional clothing items  
Lighter if lighting the Advent candle

**Why** Luke 2: 4-7

**How** If using as a reader’s theater, familiarize yourself with the script beforehand. If performing as a monologue, Alex can be packing the suitcase throughout the scene. This scene should feel relaxed and connecting with your audience on shared experiences will help them connect to the scripture.

**Time** 3 minutes

**Alex** enters, carrying a suitcase. If performing as a monologue, **Alex** might also have a pile of clothes that she folds and packs during the scene.

**Alex:** I hate packing. If it were up to me I would just ball everything up, chuck it in the suitcase, and sit on the lid until it closes. *(sighs)* But unfortunately that’s frowned upon in my house. *(looks offstage or perhaps at nearby family)* Some people think that clothes actually need to be *folded* in a suitcase. So fine. I’ll fold the clothes. *(annoyed)* But I won’t like it! *(annoyed)*

There’s so much to do when you’re preparing for a trip to Grandma’s, especially when Grandma lives hundreds of miles away. And that’s compounded exponentially when that trip is at Christmastime. Aside from the normal packing of clothes and shoes and toiletries, there’s the gifts. I already can barely fit the bags and the suitcases and the pillows and the food we bring. And now I have to find room for gifts too? Seriously? And don’t even get me started on flying. Sorry, cousin Samantha, I know you had your eye on that drum kit with real floor tom and snare, but it’s gift cards for everyone if I’m flying! *(shakes her head)* Needless to say, I find preparing for a trip to Grandma’s at Christmas a little stressful. What should be a time of peace is a time of worry, at least for me.

*A beat, as Alex thinks.*

Which makes me think of the trip Mary and Joseph took that very first Christmas. The one where Mary was nine months pregnant, yet was forced to travel all the way from Nazareth to Bethlehem... on a donkey! *(incredulous)* And I thought a car with two screaming toddlers was bad. *(thinks)* Wait. That *is* bad. But still not as bad as pregnant donkey riding. *(shakes her head)* Seriously, how do you prepare for something like that? And I don’t just mean having to pack up everything and travel to another place for a census on short notice. I mean preparing to be the parents of the Son of God!

Can you imagine the conversations Mary and Joseph must’ve had on that long journey? I’m guessing they were a lot more complicated than who’s going to handle nighttime feedings and should we go with disposable or cloth diapers. *(leans in)* Spoiler alert, it was cloth. This was Biblical times, people! *(thinks)* And yet Mary and Joseph traveled on—not only to Bethlehem, but into a future they couldn’t even fathom. A life in which the daily care of the Messiah rested on their shoulders. That’s quite a burden.

But Mary and Joseph had peace in their hearts knowing that God was with them. That he had chosen them for this task, in this moment, and that he would provide everything they needed so that his son, Jesus could bring the peace and love that the world so desperately needed.

**Alex** holds up the suitcase.

So maybe preparing for the trip to Grandma’s isn’t so hard. And whether this suitcase is packed with beautifully folded clothes or bursting with balls of wrinkled cloth— *(leans in)* spoiler alert... it’s wrinkled cloth—we can be at peace knowing that as we once again prepare for the coming of Christmas, we are also preparing a place in our hearts for the coming of the newborn king, Jesus.

*If lighting the Advent candle, Alex says the following speech.*

Today I light the candle of Peace. May the light of peace burn brightly throughout this Advent season and beyond. Amen.

*End of scene.*